AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for measuring the surface tension of a sample, comprising the steps of:

[[-]]providing a well plate containing at least one well defined by well walls defining a well opening and the walls of the well forming a space for receiving the sample to be tested;

[[-]]bringing a probe in contact with the surface of the sample in the well; ~~and~~;

[[-]]measuring the force applied to the probe by the sample, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the walls of the well are inclined with respect to the plane defined by the opening of the well so that the cross section of the well is decreasing in the direction from the opening of the well towards the bottom of the same, so as provide a geometry resulting in a flat or convex shape of the meniscus of the sample in the well and that at least the surface of the wall of the well facing the sample space comprises an antistatic material[[,]]; and

[[-]]providing means for dissipating static electricity from the well.

Claim 2 (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the well has the shape of a cone or a truncated cone.

Claim 3 (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, wherein the top angle β of the cone is between 30° to 150°~~, preferably 70° to 90°~~.

Claim 4 (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~claim 1~~, wherein the means for dissipating static electricity from the well are provided by selected parts of the well plate comprising ~~or being coated with~~ an antistatic material.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the ~~whole~~ entire well plate is made of~~, or coated with,~~ an antistatic material.

Claim 6 (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the antistatic material is a hydrophobic material~~, preferably a polyolefin~~.

Claim 7 (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic material used is a conductive, inherently dissipative material~~, such as polypropylene of high purity comprising carbon or metal particles~~.

Claim 8 (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension is measured from an aqueous solution.

Claim 9 (currently amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the sample is an aqueous solution of a drug and is used for testing ~~AMDE-properties~~ ADME-properties of the drug.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A well plate containing at least one well defined by well walls and an opening and forming a space for receiving a sample to be tested, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the walls of the well are inclined with respect to the plane defined by the opening of the well so that the cross section of the well is decreasing in the direction from the opening of the well towards the bottom of the same, so as to provide a geometry resulting in a flat or convex shape of the meniscus of the sample when in the well and that at least the surface of the wall of the well facing the sample space comprises an antistatic material, and comprising means for dissipating static electricity from the well,

wherein the well has the shape of a cone or a truncated cone, and

wherein the top angle β of the cone is between 30° to 150°.

Claims 11-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (currently amended) The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the means for dissipating static electricity from the well are provided by selected parts of the well plate comprising ~~or being coated with~~ an antistatic material.

Claim 14 (currently amended) The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the ~~whole~~ entire well plate is made of~~, or coated with,~~ an antistatic material.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the antistatic material is a hydrophobic material~~, preferably a polyolefin~~.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The well plate according to claim 15, wherein the hydrophobic material used is a conductive, inherently dissipative material~~, such as polypropylene of high purity comprising carbon or metal particles~~.

Claim 17 (new) The method according to claim 2, wherein the top angle β of the cone is between 70° to 90°.

Claim 18 (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the means for dissipating static electricity from the well are provided by selected parts of the well plate being coated with an antistatic material.

Claim 19 (new) The method according to claim 1 or 4, wherein the entire well plate is coated with an antistatic material.

Claim 20 (new) The method according to claim 6, wherein the hydrophobic material is a polyolefin.

Claim 21 (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein the conductive, inherently dissipative material is polypropylene of high purity comprising carbon or metal particles.

Claim 22 (new) The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the top angle β of the cone is between 70° to 90°.

Claim 23 (new) The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the means for dissipating static electricity from the well are provided by selected parts of the well plate being coated with an antistatic material.

Claim 24 (new) The well plate according to claim 10, wherein the entire well plate is coated with an antistatic material.

Claim 25 (new) The well plate according to claim 15, wherein the hydrophobic material is a polyolefin.

Claim 26 (new) The well plate according to claim 16, wherein the conductive, inherently dissipative material is polypropylene of high purity comprising carbon or metal particles.